

# Aberdeen Proving Ground (Michaelsville Landfill)

## Last Update:

**EPA Region 3 EPA ID#** MD3210021355

Maryland

Harford County 2nd Congressional District

## Other Names:

USA Edgewood Arsenal

US Coast Guard - Pool Island Range

US Coast Guard - Upper Chesapeake Range

## Current Site Status

In June of 2001 EPA and the Army signed a Final Close-out Report for the Michaelsville Landfill. The Landfill was the only portion of the Aberdeen Area on the National Priorities List.

The Army is completing studies of all remaining Non-NPL waste sites at the Aberdeen Area. Removal of unexploded munitions from the shoreline sites continues. A decision to expand a groundwater treatment plant for Harford County production wells was made the summer of 2000. Design is 60% complete. The plant will be on-line in early 2003.

## Site Description

The Michaelsville area in Harford County, Maryland consists of 17,000 acres, including the 20-acre Michaelsville Landfill, the Phillips Field Disposal Area, the White Phosphorous Munition Burial Site, and numerous known or suspected solid waste management units that may be sources of contamination. The area contains firing ranges, impact areas, vehicle test tracks, a fire training area, and laboratories in support of the testing activities. The Michaelsville Landfill operated as a sanitary landfill from the 1970s until 1980. The landfill received household garbage and refuse from the installation. The Phillips Field Disposal Area includes the active Phillips Field Landfill, Disposal Areas 1 through 4, and two grease pits. The active Phillips Field Landfill is a construction debris landfill and lies on top of an older landfill that is unlined and is about 16 feet deep. The White Phosphorous Munition Burial Site is believed to be within a 15-acre area in the Chesapeake Bay near Mosquito Creek. Allegedly, munitions were buried under 2 feet of soil at the location. The Michaelsville area is bordered on the west by the Bush River and to the northeast and south by the Chesapeake Bay. The area is drained by seven creeks plus the Bush River. There are 38,600 people living within 3 miles of the site. Residences located on the Michaelsville area of the site house military personnel and dependents. Harford County and town of Aberdeen have water supply wells on the A.G. property, near the site boundaries. People who come in direct contact with or accidentally ingest contaminated groundwater, surface water, soil, or sediments may be at risk. Preliminary groundwater and surface water sampling has identified various heavy metals, phosphorous, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and explosives. Soil is contaminated with pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), VOCs and petroleum hydrocarbons.

### **Site Responsibility**

Cleanup of this site is the responsibility of the federal government.

### **NPL Listing History**

This site was proposed to the National Priorities List of the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites requiring long term remedial action on April 10, 1985. The site was formally added to the list October 4, 1989.

## **Threats and Contaminants**

People who come in direct contact with or accidentally ingest contaminated ground water, surface water, soil, or sediments may be at risk. Preliminary ground water and surface water sampling has identified various heavy metals, phosphorous, and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Soil is contaminated with pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), VOCs and petroleum hydrocarbons risk of bioaccumulation of contaminants in the food chain.

## **Cleanup Progress**

### **Actual Construction Underway**

The Army has completed excavating pesticide-contaminated soil at the golf course and the pesticide storage building. Abandoned underground storage tanks also are being removed in accordance with an agreement with the State of Maryland. Soil sampling around the tanks has been conducted to determine if additional excavation and soil removal or are required. Visually contaminated soil has been removed at each location and post excavation soil samples have been taken. Wells are installed in each case where contaminated soil is left in place. In 1991, soil contaminated with pesticides was removed from the site and again from the golf course and incinerated at an off-site location. In 1992, soil contaminated with pesticides was excavated from the area adjacent to the Pesticide Storage Building, and incinerated at an off-site location. In 1993, soil from the Fire Training Area was excavated, and incinerated at an off-site location. In 1993, a treatment plant was constructed to treat two wells in the Perryman Wellfield which were contaminated with VOCs. Removal actions of contaminated soil have been completed.

An investigation of the Michaelsville Landfill (source) was completed in 1992. In accordance with a ROD, a multi-layer cap has been installed on the landfill. In late 1997 a ROD was issued requiring institutional controls and long term monitoring for the groundwater associated with the landfill. In 1997, a 5-year review of the White Phosphorus Munition Burial Site concluded that there is no reason to continue monitoring that site. A removal action was initiated in 1997 to collect and destroy munitions from sites on the Chesapeake Bay. Thousands of munitions (most inert) have been removed and

destroyed. In July of 2000 a ROD was signed requiring construction of a groundwater treatment plant to protect the Perryman Wellfield which is the source of drinking water for most of Harford County. The plant design is underway and construction will be complete late in 2002. The plant will be online in early 2003. Further work is underway at other Aberdeen Area waste sites. Other long term investigations are projected to be completed by the end of the year 2002.

## Contacts

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The detailed Administrative Record can be examined at the following locations:

Washington College-Miller Library

Chestertown, MD

Harford County Public Library

Aberdeen Branch

21 Franklin Street

Aberdeen, MD 21001

Harford County Public Library, Edgewood

2205 Hanson Road

Edgewood, MD 21040